

IN THE CLAIMS:

B¹ 1. (currently amended) A composition comprising a nanoemulsion formulation, wherein the nanoemulsion formulation comprises an aqueous component, an oil component, and a surfactant mixture component, wherein said surfactant mixture component comprises a low HLB value surfactant and a high HLB value surfactant, and wherein said nanoemulsion formulation further comprises a biological agent, said biological agent comprising a nucleic acid.

2. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the ratio of said low HLB value surfactant to said high HLB value surfactant is at least 2:1.

3. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the ratio of said low HLB value surfactant to said high HLB value surfactant is at least 3:1.

4. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said low HLB value surfactant has an HLB value between approximately 3.3 and 5.3 and the high HLB value surfactant has an HLB value between approximately 14.0 and 16.0.

5. (cancelled)

6. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said nanoemulsion does not contain short-chain alcohols.

7. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said low HLB value surfactant is present in a greater amount than said high HLB value surfactant.

8. (original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said surfactant mixture component comprises a low HLB value non-ionic surfactant and a high HLB value non-ionic surfactant.

9. (currently amended) A composition comprising a nanoemulsion formulation, said nanoemulsion formulation comprising a biological agent, wherein said biological agent

comprises a nucleic acid, wherein said nanoemulsion formulation ~~that~~ permits a skin permeation rate of at least 0.447% per hour for a said biological agent in said nanoemulsion formulation.

10. (original) The composition of Claim 9, wherein said skin permeation rate is selected from at least 0.519% per hour, at least 0.615% per hour, and at least 0.823% per hour.

11. (currently amended) A composition comprising a nanoemulsion formulation comprising a nucleic acid expression vector, wherein said nanoemulsion formulation that permits an said expression vector to express a recombinant peptide at a mean level of at least 57.0 pg/cm² in cells.

12. (original) The composition of Claim 11, wherein said recombinant peptide is expressed at a mean level selected from at least 100.0 pg/cm², at least 285.0 pg/cm², and at least 376.0 pg/cm².

13. (currently amended) A composition comprising a nanoemulsion formulation comprising a nucleic acid expression vector, wherein said nanoemulsion formulation that permits an said expression vector to express RNA transcripts at a level of at least 5.0 x 10⁴ transcripts/cm² in cells.

14-20. (cancelled)
